

# OJIBWE INAAJIMOWIN

THE  
STORY  
AS IT'S  
TOLD

MARCH 2015 | VOLUME 17 | NUMBER 03

## CELEBRATING OUR RIGHTS

PAGE 6

Mary Razer (Mille Lacs Ojibwe) draws her gill nets from a lake around 1915.

CONTROVERSY  
OVER ELDER'S  
AUTOPSY

PARTNERS FOR  
PREVENTION  
HELPS KIDS

ANTI-BULLYING  
CLUB'S POSITIVE  
MESSAGE

EARLY ED.  
AWARDED  
4 STARS

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MELANIE  
BENJAMIN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Aaniin! I hope all have managed to stay warm during these past cold spells. February was so busy that it would take this entire newsletter to cover everything we've been working on, so I'll just focus on a few of the highlights and major policy initiatives.

I held a Cabinet Meeting with the commissioners in St. Paul at the end of January, where we engaged a two-day working session to map out the short and long-term goals which each Commissioner is working on. We identified how they can support one another in achieving progress for the Band.

In the midst of the Cabinet meeting, we simultaneously negotiated an agreement with the Federal Highways Administration (FHA). This is an historic, groundbreaking agreement between the Band and the U.S. Department of Transportation that details how we will work together on a government-to-government basis, and will now serve as the model for other Tribes in Minnesota.

We continue to make steady progress to get Pine Grove Leadership Academy reopened as a satellite school of Nay Ah Shing, which will enable it to receive funding from the Bureau of Indian Education. This is an exciting, priority project. I will be meeting in Washington D.C. in early March with federal and congressional officials to seek final approval. I am excited for the Aazhoomog community to have this wonderful school to be part of the Nay Ah Shing system, and am told that it could accommodate up to 40 students when it reopens next fall.

On March 17th, the Band is hosting an Elder Abuse Awareness Conference at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. Also, Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations (WEWIN) is sponsoring a conference on March 13-14 on the difficult topic of opiate use as it is impacting our newborn babies. Information about both is included in this newsletter, so please register for these important conferences. The WEWIN conference is open to ALL

Band Members, not just women, so I encourage anyone who can attend to register.

We are happy to be able to sponsor two trips for Elders this spring, one to Las Vegas and one to Oklahoma City. Now that the deadline has passed for signing up, staff can schedule these trips. All who signed up will receive information with more details soon.

On March 20, the Band will celebrate Treaty Day, when the Supreme Court affirmed the Band's rights under our 1837 Treaty. It is with some irony that I need to report about a difficult issue we are now having with the State of Minnesota. For the past few years, state officials have on occasion taken the position that the reservation boundary of the Band no longer exists. On February 24, I plan to get a resolution through the Tribal Executive Committee of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. The resolution will address recent statements made by Solicitor General Alan Gilbert, of the State Attorney General, in writing to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, which not only threaten the existence of the Mille Lacs Reservation, but could also be viewed as threatening the reservations of several of the Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. Mr. Gilbert implied that the intention of the Nelson Act of 1889 was to have only two Chippewa reservations in Minnesota, Red Lake and White Earth. We are very concerned about this matter, and Speaker Beaulieu and I have talked with Governor Dayton directly about this. On February 24, the TEC will hopefully pass a resolution supporting the existence of all the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe reservations, and noting that case law has stated that the Nelson Act had no impact on the boundaries of Chippewa Reservations. We also plan on getting a similar resolution through the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council in early March.

Finally, the Mille Lacs Band and the Rice Lake community experienced the tragic loss of a leader and activist on February 7. Mushkoob Aubid devoted his life to working on advancing

Indian rights, including the 1855 Treaty Rights. An article in this issue shares more about his life. As many of you know from media coverage, the family was discriminated against when it came to exercising their religious rights. In partnership with Chairwoman Karen Diver, of the Fond du Lac Band, I am committed to putting a stop to this discrimination.

On February 19th, Band staff and I attended a meeting with Chairwoman Diver and her staff that we were invited to by Carlton and St. Louis counties. Before this meeting, I spoke with one of our spiritual leaders and Elders first, and with his permission, I told these county officials about our expectation of being treated with basic human dignity and respect in our time of grieving. In a letter, I also requested that St. Louis County terminate its relationship with the current Medical Examiner. The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council have also weighed in and have demanded that these counties consult with us as tribes. Additionally, Mille Lacs and Fond du Lac are working together to change the law in Minnesota to ensure that the religious rights of all families are respected when a loved one passes away, and will do whatever we can to get this legislation passed during this Legislative session in Minnesota.

Sometimes it seems like every time we turn around, another barrier is put up to challenge our rights as Indian people and as tribal Nations. As Anishinaabe people, we don't always agree on many things, but the right to freely exercise our traditions, culture and spiritual beliefs is a deeply personal issue that I know we are united on. I will keep Band Members apprised of these developments as they move ahead. I hope to see many of you at our upcoming conferences in March! Miigwech.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin signing the FHA agreement.



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin with Interim Director of Federal Highway Administration Brenda Redwing.

# Elder's Passing Results in Controversy Over Autopsy

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer Ivy Vainio and Mille Lacs Messenger Photographer



Mushkooub Aubid at Perch Lake in Sawyer (Fond du Lac Reservation) during manoominike harvest in 2013.



Though progress has been made across the state of Minnesota for Native Americans in the past two decades, a recent tragic accident and brush with ignorance — and the abuse of systemic power and privilege — were strangely similar to what happened about 25 years ago. And it involved the same Mille Lacs Band family.

Last month, on Saturday, February 7, Rice Lake Band Elder and Drumkeeper Mushkooub Aubid passed away after being involved in a single-car accident just outside of Cromwell on Highway 210.

Because no other vehicles were involved, state troopers determined an autopsy wasn't necessary. When the family arrived at Cloquet Memorial Hospital to bring Mushkooub home, his body should have been released to them so they could take him home and prepare him for his journey into the spirit world in accordance with Midewiwin spiritual traditions.

Instead, a battle ensued.

Without talking to the family or examining Mushkooub's body, the Carlton County medical examiner decided to conduct an autopsy and called police to the hospital to assist with taking custody of Mushkooub's body. This was done even though the family told hospital staff that an autopsy would violate the spiritual beliefs of Mushkooub and the family.

An autopsy also would have violated the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, which guarantees Native people the rights to practice their cultural traditions without interference.

With the family following close behind, the medical examiner drove Mushkooub's body to the morgue at the School of Medicine on the UMD Campus. The family arrived to find several police cars waiting for them, and they were threatened with arrest if they tried to enter the building as Mushkooub's body was being transferred inside. To add insult to injury, throughout the next 24 hours, the family asked the medical examiner several times to allow them to conduct a ceremonial washing of Mushkooub's body, and each time the medical examiner refused, in clear violation of Minnesota law.

Minnesota Statutes 149(A)01, Subd.3(5)(b), which governs the medical examiner's handling of human remains, states: "This chapter does not apply to or interfere with the recognized customs or rites of any culture or recognized religion in the ceremonial washing, dressing, casketing, and public transportation of their dead, to the extent that all other provisions of this chapter are complied with."

Carlton County and St. Louis County both contract medical examiner services to a private company called Lakeland Pathology, based in Hibbing, Minn, which leases space to perform autopsies at the medical school on the Duluth campus.

Because the medical examiner scheduled the autopsy for 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon, the family had no choice but to try to obtain a court order to get the autopsy stopped. While attorneys worked on the court order and because time was running out, the family made the difficult decision, with advice from Band staff, to go public with their ordeal. They granted the Band permission to contact local media on their behalf. The hope was that sharing their story and shining a bright light on the injustice they were dealing with would put public pressure on the medical examiner to respect their religious rights and release Mushkooub's body. Around 2 p.m. the medical examiner agreed to delay the autopsy, but he still refused to release Mushkooub's body or allow the family to be with their loved one. Over the following hours the family remained gathered outside the School of Medicine. A spirit fire was lit and food was brought in for the evening feast. In the meantime, Band advisor Tadd Johnson was trying to find a judge to sign a court order that would call for immediate release of Mushkooub's body to his family.

Hours later, around 11:30 p.m., Tadd and Rick Smith drove to the Cloquet home of Judge Robert MacCauley, who signed the court order. When they returned to UMD with the court order, the family had hopes they would soon be taking Mushkooub home.

Instead, hopes were crushed with the devastating and confusing news that the medical examiner was refusing to abide by the court order and refusing to release Mushkooub's body. An meeting was scheduled for 7:30 a.m. Monday with the St. Louis and Carlton County attorneys and Band staff, forcing the family to wait outside all night in 17-degree weather. Grand Casino sent a shuttle bus to Duluth so family members could occasionally warm themselves inside together.

After the meeting with the county attorneys Monday morning, the medical examiner relented and agreed to release Mushkooub's body to his family without an autopsy. Finally, around 9 a.m., the family was able to take him home.

This tragic incident was eerily similar to circumstances about 25 years ago when Mushkooub's father, George Aubid, passed away in Aitkin County. Mushkooub took his father's body away from the Aitkin County Hospital, where an autopsy was pending, to bring him home. A police chase involving county and state troopers ensued, as Mushkooub raced down the roadway with his father's body, at one point even switching cars and using backroads. When asked about why he wanted to press charges against Mushkooub, Aitkin County Deputy Coroner Chuck Brenny said, "They just can't go to a hospital and take a body from the ER and put it back into the station

wagon and drive away... Pretty soon, everybody will be doing it." This incident became a national news story and an embarrassment to Aitkin County.

"You would think they might have learned something in 25 years," Tadd said.

Many questions remain to be answered, including why a medical examiner was able to violate a state court order for nine hours.

A mere 24 hours after the incident with Mushkooub and his family, the same medical examiner refused for 15 hours to abide by a second court order for release of Mushkooub's body of a Fond du Lac woman whose family was opposed to autopsy.

Band officials are working with both counties to address flaws in the contract with the medical examiner's company, which they say incentivizes the medical examiner to perform autopsies as often as possible regardless of what families want. The contract pays the medical examiner a set fee for each autopsy he conducts.

When the Band learned that the medical examiner's contract with St. Louis County is due to be renewed for another two years in upcoming weeks, Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin wrote to St. Louis County insisting it terminate its relationship with this medical examiner.

In the February 13th letter she cited a violation of state statutes, "despicable behavior" and "an egregious act of discrimination against the religious rights of a Member of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians and his family."

Along with Fond du Lac and the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, the Band is working with both Carlton and St. Louis Counties to ensure that an incident like this is never repeated.

In the long term, Tadd said changes in the state law that allows families to reject autopsies are absolutely critical. Several states already have such language in place, including New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island and California.

Tadd added that both state and county employees must prioritize educating their employees about cultural sensitivity to Native Americans, their culture and beliefs.

Though the story of Mushkooub's death became public in local media, representatives from the Band said it's likely that autopsies have been performed on other Band members, in many cases against the wishes of their family members.

Band Elder and Spiritual Advisor Lee "Obizaan" Staples, told representatives of the media that more people need to learn about the Anishinaabe culture, teaching and traditions. He added that he hoped the case would raise awareness of people who hold deep cultural beliefs.

# Mushkooub Aubid: Passing of a Great Leader

**Winona LaDuke** Executive Director of Honor the Earth *This article originally appeared on Indian Country Today Media Network.*

*"They just can't go to a hospital and take a body from the ER and put it back into the station wagon and drive away," Aitkin County Deputy Coroner Chuck Brenny said... "Pretty soon, everybody will be doing it."*

Manominike Giizis, August 1990, discussing the repatriation of Egiwaateshkang, aka. George Aubid by his son Mushkooub. Mushkooub took his father's body from the coroner's office in a station wagon home, to send him on his path to the spirit world.

Some things change, but many stay the same. This month's passing of Mushkooub Aubid, son of George Aubid, followed the same story line. Mushkooub Aubid, 65, was involved in a serious car accident on February 7 and was pronounced dead at Cloquet Memorial Hospital. His body was taken to the medical school at UMD, where an autopsy was set for Tuesday, long after the traditional practice would allow. "We just want to prepare his body for his journey to the next world," his widow, Winnie LaPrairie, said. "This is the way it's been done for thousands of years."

It took a lot of pressure and 25 tribal members to bring their Chief home. Band administrators and attorneys said a forced autopsy would violate the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. "We're trying to do this peacefully and according to the law," Dan LaPrairie, Aubid's son, said. "But our beliefs supersede those laws. Our father gave us explicit instructions for

what to do when he passed, and that's what we're trying to do here."

The well attended funeral and wake included representatives from most of the Anishinaabeg communities in the region and the traditional Midewin Societies. The funeral was held in East Lake or Minisinaakwaang, home of the Rice Lake Band of Mississippi Anishinaabe or Manoominikeshiins-ininiwag. Mushkooub (He that is Firmly Affixed), much like his father, had their lives marked with defense of the land and way of life of the Anishinaabeg. At the center of their lives given by the Creator was the political autonomy of Minisinaakwaang, as well as *mino bimaatisiwin*.

Mushkooub, who refused to fight in the Vietnam War because "that was not his war," was remembered for his courage and tenacity at his memorial. He was among the American Indians who took over the Bureau of Indian Affairs building in Washington, D.C. in 1972; a year later was part of the liberation of Wounded Knee; and also joined his father in protesting dumping of military and toxic waste on the shores of Gichi Gummi (Lake Superior). His accolades include: Mille Lacs Band Education Director; championship ricer — bringing in 650 pounds in one day; defender of land, water, and the way of life.

There is, in the end, a conflict between worldviews, and ways of life. Some call it the white man paperwork: autopsy reports on deceased Indians and permitting of projects known to damage the ecosystem. What Mushkooub stood for is to be

Anishinaabeg, and perhaps his father's words of 30 years ago remind us all of what that means:

"We do not have thousands upon thousands of dollars. We do not have great mansions of beauty. We do not have priceless objects of art. We do not lead a life of ease, nor do we live in luxury. We do not own the land upon which we live. We do not have the basic things of life which we are told are necessary to better ourselves. But I want to tell you now that we do not need these things. What we need, however, is what we already have. What we need has been provided to us by the Great Spirit. We need to realize who we are and what we stand for. We are the keepers of that which the Great Spirit has given to us, that is our language, our culture, our drum societies, our religion, and most of all our traditional way of life. We need to be Anishinaabeg again." — George Aubid, Egiwaateshkang.

Known as a political activist, Mushkooub was also deeply devoted to his family, described as a kind man with a big heart and compassion for those in need. Mushkooub is survived by his wife Winnie LaPrairie of East Lake, MN; sons, Dan LaPrairie of Sawyer, MN, Iyawbe LaPrairie Mushkooub of East Lake, Biisaa Aubid of Wright, MN; culturally adopted son, Franklin Benjamin of Onamia, MN; daughter, Opitchee Mushkooub of East Lake, MN; 3 brothers; 5 sisters; 15 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

## Partners for Prevention: Helping Kids Make Healthy Choices

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer

Travelers on Hwy. 169 might have noticed two billboards — one south of Garrison and one in the Vineland area — with a message to parents: "Parents! Talk to us about not using alcohol."

The billboards are the work of Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention, a coalition of concerned citizens from Nay Ah Shing, Onamia, and Isle who want to make a difference in their community by encouraging young people to avoid alcohol and other drugs.

MAPP was founded in December 2011 through a grant awarded to Rum River Health Services of Princeton. When that organization dissolved, the project was picked up by Onamia Schools.

The coalition currently has membership from all three school districts, Mille Lacs Health System, Mille Lacs County, and the Mille Lacs Band. Law enforcement, parents, business and community members are also represented.

Band employees Amanda Nickaboine and Byron Ninham were elected chair and co-chair of the coalition for 2015. Geri Pohlkamp, from Onamia School District, is secretary/treasurer.

Amanda said she has been involved with the coalition since the beginning in 2011, and she has been impressed with how invested everyone has been. "Most of the people involved have been here since the beginning," Amanda said. "Throughout all the changes our coalition has seen, we have remained resilient and dedicated to the work."

"MAPP plays an important part in prevention in our communities by starting a dialogue on prevention models, ideas, and recent statistics throughout the areas of service," Byron said. "A potential pathway to change may just be starting a conversation with young people, adults, community members and correction of misperceptions from community members."

The permanent staff of the grant includes Amber Kent, coordinator, and Jamie Root-Larsen, assistant coordinator and media specialist, whose offices are in the Rolf Olsen Center

in Onamia.

The group meets monthly and welcomes new members. They are currently looking to increase representation from parents, clergy and other sectors. The coalition meets the last Tuesday of every month from noon to 1 p.m. at the Rolf Olsen Center in Onamia.

### Positive community norms

The group's main focus is on changing misperceptions in the community about teen alcohol and drug use. The hope is that kids will be less likely to engage in those behaviors if they know the facts: that most kids in the community don't drink and use drugs and would prefer not to use them, and they would support their friends in their decisions to avoid alcohol and drugs.

Coalition Chair Amanda Nickaboine said, "Our positive messaging with the billboards and posters is one of my favorite parts of our coalition. I think adolescents already know what negative consequences are for underage alcohol and drug use, but it is still not a deterrent from using. I think there has always been that thinking, when it comes to drinking, that 'everyone' is doing it and that it's what the cool kids do. But through the positive messaging students come to find out that those beliefs are not true."

This model, referred to as "Positive Community Norms Framework," is the brainchild of Jeff Linkenbach of Montana Institute. Its effectiveness has been demonstrated in communities that have implemented the model to address all sorts of health and safety issues, from child abuse to traffic accidents.



**Coalition Officers (L-R): Geri Pohlkamp, Amanda Nickaboine and Byron Ninham.**

MAPP is funded by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division. MAPP is part of the second cohort of grant recipients. The first grants were awarded in 2006, and the communities implementing the program are seeing positive outcomes. "It's a grant that has worked for other communities in the past and is continuing to work," said MAPP coordinator Amber Kent.

### Spirit and science

According to the mostofus.org website, "PCN fosters cultural transformation by addressing many different audiences throughout the community for the purpose of growing positive norms and thereby improving health and safety."

Amber said the Montana Institute stresses a "spirit-science-action and return" cycle. "Create a positive spirit, look at the data, then do something." The **Continued on page 5**

“return” refers to reflecting on what has been done, making adjustments, and starting again.

The Mille Lacs project began with a series of extensive surveys to determine patterns of alcohol and drug abuse in the area.

Students have taken annual surveys since the project began and will continue to do so for the five-year duration of the grant. The survey asks students about perceptions and their own substance use, and also how they perceive others’ use. The survey is designed to weed out inconsistent answers that would prove to be dishonest or exaggerated, which lends credibility to the results.

Another reason to trust the results of the surveys: they are in line with statewide and national trends.

Project staff also conducted 100 one-to-one or face-to-face interviews with teachers, parents, law enforcement, and business owners. Those interviews will be repeated after five years to get a sense of change in community perceptions. Amanda Nickaboine conducted several of the interviews with probation officers, and the information collected has proven to be very useful.

In addition to showing that students overestimate the amount their classmates drink, the surveys also showed other misperceptions. For example, law enforcement and parents both underestimate the other group’s interest in combatting underage drinking. Both groups — just like students — also overestimate the amount of underage drinking in the community.

The results of the surveys are used to fashion messages and promote activities that will help to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol use among teens.

The focus on delaying onset is based on science. If a student drinks at the age of 15 they are four times more likely to abuse alcohol or drugs as an adult. The longer you can delay it, the greater the chance they will never have a problem.

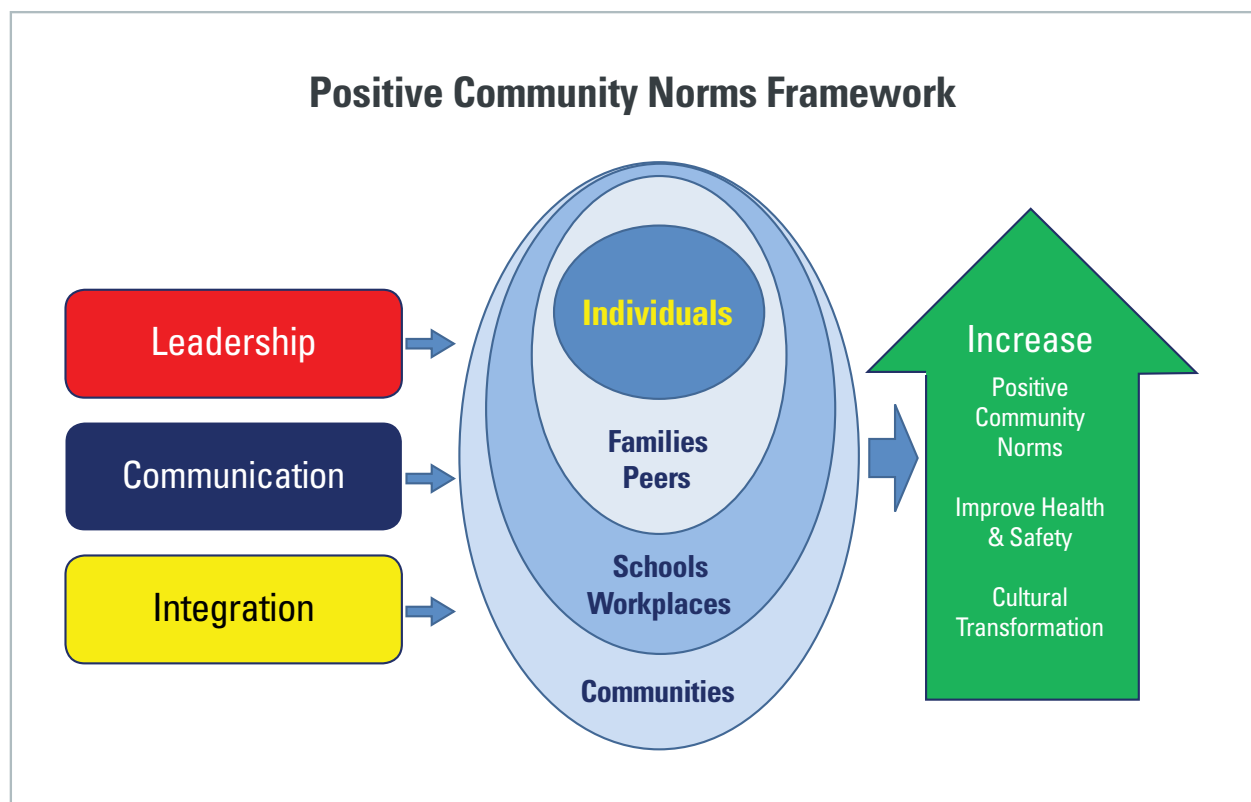
MAPP coordinator Amber Kent said, “The theory behind that is if we can change misperceptions we can change behavior.”

Hence the billboards, which are part of the group’s mission geared toward correcting misperceptions.

## Action

Amanda said, “Right now is a great time to be involved in the coalition because we finally get to work on all the things that were imagined at the very start. It’s great to finally see the action beginning. We have committees formed that will focus on certain areas of importance to the coalition, and most members have picked a committee to be on.”

One of the group’s most significant accomplishments, according to Amber, is bringing the three communities together to create a single vision and mission to work toward the same goals for the youth around the region.



In addition to the billboards, the group has created posters to be used in the schools and has put together active youth groups in the Nay Ah Shing, Onamia, and Isle communities.

All messages need to be pilot tested before they can be used. The Montana Institute makes sure the messages are inclusive and inoffensive — in keeping with the focus on a “positive spirit.”

“The statements that do get printed on the billboards and posters are not made up,” Amanda said. “They come from the surveys taken by the students, and they are very well thought out and pilot tested before being printed.”

The coalition recently surveyed Mille Lacs Health System medical professionals to assess their needs for addressing teen use. Past surveys have shown that healthcare professionals are the most trusted for information on drugs and alcohol, but they are also rarely spoken with on the topic. MAPP hopes to change that by bringing doctors and nurses into the conversation and supplying them with the materials they need to address the topic.

The Onamia, Isle, and Nay Ah Shing youth groups engage in many separate activities and do a few things together each year. The groups are student led but adult guided.

Mille Lacs Band youth coordinator Shawn Willis is leading the Isle group, and teachers Renee Athman and Gregg Rutter are leading the Nay Ah Shing group. Amber and Jamie Root-Larsen are currently leading the Onamia group until a permanent leader can be found.

One project youth have been participating in is called “Photovoice.” Youth go out in the community with cameras

to take pictures illustrating hopes and concerns and strengths and weaknesses. Future projects for the kids are based on finding ways to remedy the areas of concern and enhancing the strengths.

MAPP’s messaging hopes to help parents have conversations with their kids about drinking and drugs. Again, it’s based on science: Eighty-three percent of youth report that parents are the leading influence in their decision to not drink alcohol. (Source: The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, February 2012)

MAPP is also implementing the Project Northland curriculum in Onamia and Isle.

Next on the group’s agenda is a public forum to be held March 31 (see sidebar).

“There is still work to do, and the fun is just beginning,” Amanda said. “Come to our next meeting to see how you can be involved!”

Mille Lacs Area Partners for Prevention will hold a community meeting March 31 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Rolf Olsen Center in Onamia.

Dinner, dessert and childcare will be provided.

For more information, contact Amber Kent at [akent@onamia.k12.mn.us](mailto:akent@onamia.k12.mn.us)

MAPP welcomes all community members to the meeting and to the Alliance for Drug Free Youth.

# Minnesota Department of Health Recommends Radon Testing

**Kathy Beaulieu-Sanders** RN, BSN, PHN, CLC

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommends that all homeowners in Minnesota test their home for radon, a radioactive gas that seeps up from the earth. Radon is colorless, has no odor and, when one breathes it in, gives off radioactive particles that have the ability to damage lung cells. Unfortunately, long term exposure to radon can lead to lung cancer; it is estimated that approximately 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the United States are due to radon. Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer preceded only by tobacco smoking.

Radon is present everywhere. It comes from the soil as a byproduct of decaying uranium and radium, common chemical

elements found in Minnesota soil. Because it is a natural gas, radon can easily move through the soil, seeping itself in the air we breathe. There are no known safe levels of radon but it is known that the greatest exposure risk is where radon can build up indoors and where one spends most of their time; for many of us this would be in our homes.

A person’s risk for developing lung cancer related to radon increases in higher levels of the gas and increased exposure. MDH therefore recommends that all housing units be tested regardless to how old or new your home is. Any home can have a high level of radon.

Radon can enter your home through two components: path-

ways and air pressure. Examples of pathways include cracks in concrete slabs, floor-wall joints, and pores and cracks in concrete blocks. Air pressure in many of our homes is negative, especially during the heating season. This means the air pressure in our homes is usually lower than the air and soil pressures surrounding the outside of our homes, causing a vacuum that pulls gases from the soil, such as radon, into our homes.

An excellent way to protect yourself and your family is to test your home. Radon tests are available at the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Public Health Department free of charge. For more information or to receive a free radon test kit, please contact Kathy Beaulieu-Sanders at 320-532-7511.



Marge Anderson



Don Wedll



# RIGHTS CELEBRATED AT TREATY DAY EVENTS

Brett Larson Staff Writer Mille Lacs Messenger Photographer

The Mille Lacs Band will recognize Treaty Day on Friday, March 20, with a Treaty Rights Celebration at Grand Casino Mille Lacs. The event, hosted by the Mille Lacs Department of Natural Resources, begins at noon with an invocation and includes lunch at 12:30 p.m., as well as vendor booths, arts and crafts booths, door prizes, and games for kids and adults.

Attendees will have a chance to win a ricing package, including rice knockers and a canoe, and a spring harvest package, including nets, buoys and a canoe.

The Band holiday marks the day in 1999 that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Band members retained rights to hunt, fish and gather in areas ceded to the U.S. in the Treaty of 1837.

The decision in *Minnesota v. Mille Lacs Band of Chippewa Indians* came nearly a decade after the Band first filed suit against the State of Minnesota for violating those rights. For decades, the state enforced conservation laws against Mille Lacs Band members who were exercising their rights.

In 1993, the Minnesota Legislature failed to act on a negotiated settlement that would have given the Band 36,000 pounds of walleye or 7 percent of the total harvest, plus \$10 million,

15,000 acres of state land, and other concessions.

The failure of the settlement sent the issue to the federal courts. In the meantime the U.S. joined the case on behalf of the Mille Lacs Band. Eight counties and five landowners intervened on the side of the state of Minnesota.

Federal courts ruled in favor of the Band in 1994. Six Wisconsin bands intervened on the side of the Mille Lacs Band in 1995, and in 1997, the U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the previous verdict.

The state appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, who heard arguments on December 2, 1998.

On Dec. 2, according to the Mille Lacs Messenger, a group of Band members gathered in front of the Supreme Court building for a drum ceremony that continued until 9 a.m., when observers filed into the courtroom.

Afterwards, representatives of the counties and the landowners used the terms "guardedly optimistic," since the justices' questions had seemed more aggressive toward the attorneys of the Bands and the U.S. Frank Courteau, who weeks earlier had been elected Mille Lacs County Commissioner, said, "I think they'll reverse it." Howard Hanson, another leader in the anti-treaty

**ARTICLE 5. The privilege of hunting, fishing, and gathering the wild rice, upon the lands, the rivers and the lakes included in the territory ceded, is guaranteed to the Indians, during the pleasure of the President of the United States.**

movement, said, "We're right, and right will prevail."

Mille Lacs Band Chief Executive Marge Anderson was also positive. She said, "I think justice will prevail. Justice under the law... I'm still very optimistic."

Marge's wish came true on March 24, 1999, when the decision came down that the Bands had won, and the highest court had declared that the words of Article 5 of the Treaty of 1837 retained the status of law: "The privilege of hunting, fishing, and gathering the wild rice, upon the lands, the rivers and the lakes included in the territory ceded, is guaranteed to the Indians, during the pleasure of the President of the United States."

That last clause, "during the pleasure of the President," was one of the key subjects of the court case, because President Zachary Taylor, in 1850, had attempted to rescind the rights. The Supreme Court, however, ruled that the executive order was invalid because Congress or the Constitution did not give the President the power to issue such an order.

When the news of the verdict came out, the Band held a news conference in District I. "Today, the United States has kept a promise," Marge said, "a promise that agreements are meant to be honored, not broken."

Mille Lacs Band Secretary/Treasurer Herb Weyaus said, "Today my sadness is gone. As a sovereign nation, we accept the responsibility that comes with the Supreme Court's decision. We have preserved these resources for centuries because they are central to our culture, and we are ready to work with our Band members and our neighbors to protect the natural environment."

Some non-Indian neighbors agreed to make the best of the situation and move on. Resort owner Terry McQuoid said, "We're looking forward to getting back to business as usual." Tourism Council director Judy Cain said, "We must put the past in the past. It's now over. We're going to move on. The band is willing and so are we."

Messenger editor Jim Baden said, "It's time to let it go. ... It's time to move on so that the profound activities that really lay at the heart of life in Mille Lacs won't become casualties of this war."

Others were not so positive. Sen. Dan Stevens said, "It was like a punch in the stomach." Rep. Sondra Erickson said she was "in mourning." She said the system allowing tribal sovereignty was "almost like apartheid."

The case resulted in co-management of hunting, fishing and gathering on ceded territories by the state and the tribes, which are represented by the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

To this day, Band members harvest fish, game and wild rice under tribal regulations, and the tribes work with the state DNR to protect natural resources in the territories ceded in the Treaty of 1837.



Judy Cain



Terry McQuoid



Mark Slonim

## Treaty of 1837: What Happened?

**Don Wedll** Former Commissioner of DNR

*Originally published on Aug 30, 2006 in the Moccasin Telegraph and Mille Lacs Messenger*

Today, seven years after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the treaty and 169 years after it was signed, this agreement between the United States and the Ojibwe tribe is still valid.

A lot has been written about what happened after the treaty, especially the treaty's impact in modern years. But little has been said about the events that led up to the treaty. Maybe if people knew more about what happened and why, they would see this area's past — and its future — in a new light.

In the early 1800s, this area of Minnesota was still controlled by the British. After the War of 1812, it became part of territory possessed by the United States, and explorers like Zebulon Pike and Lewis Cass searched the upper Mississippi looking for the river's source. Based on the explorers' reports, American fur traders and land speculators saw opportunities to expand. White settlers then followed the traders and speculators, leaving the Eastern seaboard and pouring into the Middle West where they hoped to enhance their lives by having land to farm and timber to build their homes.

The Ojibwe people's homelands, significant stretches of territory with dense forests, were tremendously appealing to non-Indian eyes. The allure of acres of trees and land was coupled with the settlers' view of the Ojibwe as no-

madic people roaming aimlessly. This view was inaccurate — the Ojibwe moved deliberately with the seasons to the best places to pick berries or hunt game or fish or harvest wild rice — but it gave some settlers a sense of entitlement to the land and lumber because they felt they would use the natural resources better than the Indians.

Since the late 1700s, the United States had adopted the European method of using treaties to acquire Indian land, and from 1836 to 1854 the U.S. would seek and get much of northern Michigan, northern Wisconsin and northeastern Minnesota this way. The Treaty of 1837 was one of these treaties. Through it, the U.S. acquired a tract starting where the Crow Wing River enters the Mississippi River just south of present day Brainerd, then extending down the Mississippi to just north of St. Cloud, then east to the Wisconsin-Michigan border. This area encompassed about 12 million acres of land, lakes and rivers.

Interestingly, many of the Ojibwe leaders who signed the treaty were from lands that lay outside this ceded territory. A few of them hesitated to sign an agreement giving up the lands of others, knowing that this was going to start a major change in the Ojibwe's lifestyle. But the majority agreed to the treaty terms: a series of payments of money, goods, farm tools and seed and tobacco, plus help establishing blacksmith shops. And, of course, the now-famous provision about retaining the rights to hunt, fish and gather wild rice.

The Indian leaders were also influenced by non-Indian fur traders who attended the treaty negotiations. According to the Treaty of 1837, the fur traders were to receive payments for the Ojibwe's supposed debts to them, which motivated the traders to press for passage of the treaty.

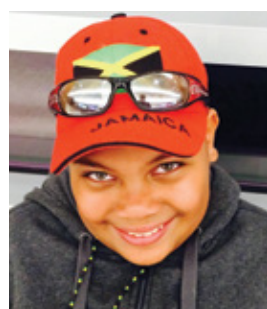
But more interesting for people in this area, the Mille Lacs Band's lands were included in the 1837 ceded territory. This occurred because the maps used in 1837 did not accurately show how certain geographical points were located in relationship to other points. The maps showed the Crow Wing River entering the Mississippi River below Mille Lacs Lake, not on the north end of Mille Lacs Lake as it is correctly shown today. This error was corrected with later revisions of maps.

The error wasn't presented to Mille Lacs Band leaders until they negotiated the Treaty of 1855, which created the Mille Lacs Reservation. They were surprised by the change in the maps. The change illustrates how hard it was for Indian leaders to make treaties in a language they did not read or write, forcing them to rely on the interpretation skills and honesty of others.

The Treaty of 1837 became one of many misunderstandings between the Mille Lacs Ojibwe government and other governments over land and treaty rights. But maybe the passage of time and the Band's careful management of its treaty harvests — with some historical background for good measure — can end those misunderstandings.

# Anti-Bullying Club Sends Positive Message

**Toya Stewart Downey** Staff Writer/Photographer



**Blake Stewart Ford**

In his physical education class last year Blake Stewart Ford witnessed something he didn't like: students in his sixth grade class were making fun of another student.

"I thought it wasn't fair that they were being mean to him for no reason," said Blake, a 12-year-old who attends Francis Granger Middle School

in Aurora, Ill. His mom, Tawnya Stewart, is a Band member and his grandmother was Sheila Sutton, whose parents were George and Marion (Smith) Sutton.

Witnessing the bullying incident, and having been bullied a bit himself in the past, Blake decided something needed to be done and decided to form ABC – the Anti-bullying Club – with one of his friends.

The boys approached their school's principal to ask her support. She immediately agreed and said such a club would be a great idea. The assistant principal joined the effort and the club, now approaching its first anniversary, came to fruition.

Blake, currently a seventh-grader, says he hopes the club can make a difference in the lives of his peers.

"The only rule we have is you can't be a bully," he said. "You don't have to be an official member because our club welcomes everyone."

The group initially began meeting weekly on Wednesdays, but now meets biweekly. On average about 10 students, boys and girls, attend the club meetings. They share inspirational quotes and stories with each other and talk about ways to prevent bullying at their school.

One of the first projects the club did was to begin working on a movie about different types of bullying behavior. The movie isn't complete yet, but Blake hopes that will happen soon.

This year the club took their project to the school by inviting all students to contribute anti-bullying messages to a giant paper tree in the middle of the building's hallway.

Each student was given a green leaf and was asked to write something on it to fill the branch of the tree with positive words and phrases. The response was overwhelming and participation was high.

"Teachers and students alike created messages and posted them," said assistant principal Tim Lowe. "It was pretty cool."

The tree is now completely covered with messages, he added.

Blake said the reason for the tree was "to raise more awareness about what we are doing and why," he said.

Another project the club has undertaken is to share positive messages by writing kind words on scraps of paper and then putting them in other students' lockers. The notes are anonymous, but are designed to spread joy to the receiver.

Blake said the members want to help students understand that they don't have to be bullied and they don't have to stand by while other students are bullied.

"We tell people to treat others the way they want to be treated," he said. "We also tell people that if they see someone being bullied they can report it to an adult anonymously so they don't feel like they will be threatened."

Some of the tips the Anti-bullying Club offers to students are:

- Tell an adult if someone is bothering you
- Don't let it continue
- Ignore the bully if you can
- Be nice to the person who is acting like a bully
- Try not to let it bother you, but always share your feelings with a parent or another trusted adult.

"Sometimes people don't even know that they are being bullies, so sometimes you need to talk to them and tell them why what they are saying or doing is bothering you."

If you suspect your child is being bullied, talk to the school leaders or other trusted adults. If you suspect your child is be-

ing a bully, talk to him or her. Seek outside counsel if necessary.

Bullying is a problem that happens at schools nationwide and can affect students of all walks of life.

Nay Ah Shing Principal Noah Johnson said there have bullying incidents at the school, but he has seen a decline since the beginning of the school year. It's a trend he hopes will continue, he added.

Beginning next fall the Band-operated school will implement an anti-bullying program that was paid for through grant dollars. The staff has already been trained on how the program operates.

Nay Ah Shing also relies on its peacekeeper, talking circles and its staff to help prevent incidents of bullying, or as it looks for resolution to issues. An outside theater group presents plays that deal with topics such as bullying. This year the school staff created a suggestion box that allows students to share their ideas and concerns with the administrators. All of these are important steps to help prevent bullying and to make students feel safe as school, the principal said.

Blake's mom, Tawnya, said he now has a heightened sense of awareness about bullying and treating people fairly.

"Because this effort comes from his heart I'm not sure if he's totally aware of his impact on the school," she said. "I'm very proud of his accomplishment and credit him with turning his idea into a reality."



**The club took their project to the school by inviting all of the students to contribute to anti-bullying messages to a giant paper tree in the middle of the building's hallway.**

According to **StopBullying.gov** there is no single factor that puts a child at risk of being bullied, or bullying others. Bullying can happen anywhere and any time.

In general, children who are bullied have one or more of the following risk factors:

- Are perceived as different from their peers, such as being overweight or underweight, wearing glasses or different clothing, being new to a school, or being unable to afford what kids consider "cool"
- Are perceived as weak or unable to defend themselves
- Are depressed, anxious, or have low self esteem
- Are less popular than others and have few friends
- Do not get along well with others, are seen as annoying or provoking, or antagonize others for attention

It's worth noting that even if a child has these risk factors, it doesn't mean they will be bullied. Bullying can happen to anyone for any reason and it could be a single occurrence or could happen repeatedly.

There are two types of kids who are more likely to bully others:

- Some are well-connected to their peers, have social power, are overly concerned about their popularity, and like to dominate or be in charge of others.
- Others are more isolated from their peers and may be depressed or anxious, have low self esteem, be less involved in school, be easily pressured by peers, or not identify with the emotions or feelings of others.

Children who have these factors are also more likely to bully others:

- Are aggressive or easily frustrated
- Have less parental involvement or are having issues at home
- Think badly of others
- Have difficulty following rules
- View violence in a positive way
- Have friends who bully others

Remember, those who bully others do not need to be stronger or bigger than those they bully. The power imbalance can come from a number of sources — popularity, strength, cognitive ability — and children who bully may have more than one of these characteristics.



# Planning Committee Focused on the Future

**Brett Larson** Staff Writer



**The Mille Lacs Band's Physical Planning Committee is in charge of planning a wide range of projects from housing to road construction, and from land purchases to new buildings.**

Every month, a large group of Mille Lacs Band employees gathers around a big table and attempts to see into the future. No, this is not some weird séance or a reality show about clairvoyants. It's the regular meeting of the Mille Lacs Band's Physical Planning Committee.

The committee is what the name implies: the entity in charge of planning a wide range of projects for the Band, from housing to road construction, and from land purchases to new buildings.

The chair of the committee is Mike Moilanen, who has been with the Mille Lacs Band for more than 21 years. "Our overall task is to meet the growth needs of the Band and to anticipate future needs," Mike said.

Mike has been chair of the committee since it was started under Lester Morris, the Band's first Commissioner of Community Development. Back then, Bruce Gohmann was a "one-man project development team," Mike said.

The committee was started as a way of sharing information among departments, and also for members to disseminate information about projects throughout the government.

"The goal was to have a representative from every Band department because they all have planning activities going on," Mike said.

Now there are more players than ever. District administrators are at the table, and it's not uncommon for elected officials or commissioners to attend meetings.

By working together, committee members are better able to anticipate road blocks and conflicts, as well as to see into the future.

During the early days of the Physical Planning Committee, they worked on the first Bugg Hill housing development. It was the first time the Band had taken on a project of that sort. "Back in the day, lots were developed individually. It was inefficient and expensive," Mike said. "Lester really pushed us to get ahead of some of this stuff."

Over the years the group has been involved in numerous housing and building projects, including clinics, community centers, the Wewinabi Early Childhood Education Center, and the District I powwow grounds. They are also involved in land purchases, giving input on recommended use of new lands and whether they should be put into trust.

Some of the committee's projects are sent down from above, with elected officials and commissioners directing their actions. In other cases, staff members on the ground recognize needs or opportunities and bring ideas to the committee. The committee has no authority on its own, so any ideas it comes up with must eventually be approved by the Band Assembly and the Chief Executive.

Currently the committee is hard at work on several ongoing projects:

- Phase three of the Zhingwaak housing development in Hinckley.
- A new housing development on the Sher property west of Bugg Hill.
- A new facility at the immersion grounds in Rutledge.

As the Band's needs have changed over time, with new revenues and a growing population, it has become more essential than ever for the Band to look ahead and try to predict what those needs will be and how best to meet them.

Until someone comes up with a working crystal ball, the Physical Planning Committee will be doing their best to see into the future.

## District I Community Development Schedule

Project	% Complete
<b>Commercial — New</b>	
#11009: Traditional Grounds Septic	95%
#11012: Pow Wow Arena (Construction)	99%
<b>Commercial — Remodel</b>	
#12065 Budget Host Remodel	10%
#12068: NIS Clinic Lobby/Reception	0%
<b>Residential — New</b>	
#13044: Bugg Hill Playgrounds	0%
#13045: 44885 Biboon Court Duplex w/o garages	0%
#13046: 47322 Lost Creek (Rental Poplar w/o garage)	95%
#13048: 16013 Nay Ah Shing Drive (Birchwood)	80%
#13051: 17193 Ogidaki Court, Demo & Replace (Sugar Maple)	0%
#13052: 17162 Wabashikiki Drive, Lot 38 Bugg Hill (Blue Spruce Elder)	55%
<b>Residential — Remodel</b>	
#14081: 39807 US Highway 169	95%
#14094: 17429 Noopiming Lane	0%
#14095: 38957 118th Street, Onamia	0%
#14096: 43422 Mosey Drive	0%
#14097: 45757 US Highway 169	0%
#14109: 45447 US Highway 169, Septic Replace	0%
#14110: 17277 Gabeshi Lane	0%
<b>Infrastructure/ PublicWorks</b>	
#15000: Sher Property Engineering	55%
#15001: Sher Property Development Construction	0%

## District II Community Development Schedule

Project	% Complete
<b>Commercial — New</b>	
#21000: DII Pow Wow Arena Design	0%
<b>Commercial — Remodel</b>	
#22016: Galloway Old College Demolition	0%
<b>Residential — New</b>	
#23038: Quad on 75th Avenue, Wahkon	0%
#23039: 45908 30th Avenue, Isle (Butternut w/ garage)	99%
#23041: Round Lake Tract I Duplex Septic	99%
#23043: 20929 363rd Lane (Blue Spruce Elder)	0%
<b>Residential — Remodel</b>	
#24022: 21842 Goshawk	0%
#24030: 20453 465th Lane	98%
#24037: 19734 364th Lane	0%
#24038: 19668 364th Lane	65%
#24039: 19264 364th Lane	0%
#24040: 34889 200th Avenue Septic Replacement	15%
#24041: 34889 200th Avenue Elder Garage	0%

## District III Community Development Schedule

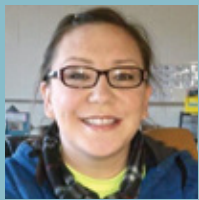
Project	% Complete
<b>Commercial — New</b>	
#31001: Rutledge Grounds Facility	0%
<b>Commercial — Remodel</b>	
#32012: Community Center Vestibule Entry	98%
#32017: Pine Grove Head Start — Re-roofing	95%
#32018: Community Center Flagpoles	50%
<b>Residential — New</b>	
#34079: 305 Fire Monument Road	0%
#34081: 30840 Water Lily Drive, Elder Rental Garage	0%
#34082: 30840/30874 Water Lily Drive, Septic	0%
#34083: 41067 Government Road, Garage Rehab	0%
#34086: 42 Minnesota Street	0%
#34087: 46118 Grace Lake Road, Septic Replace	0%
<b>Infrastructure/ PublicWorks</b>	
#35000: Zhingwaak Oodena Phase III Engineering	65%
#35002: Evergreen Drive, Extension Engineering	20%

## All Districts/Misc. Projects

Project	% Complete
#50000: Community Center Generators	0%
#50002: HHS Exterior Concrete	30%

## Gidinwewininaan

**Baabitaw Boyd** Gaa-ozhibii'ang



This month's article is about using rules in the classroom to benefit children as opposed to taking timeouts.

Mii iniw inaakoniganan indabiwininaan waa-ini-dazhindamaan noongom.

1. Ombinikenin wii-kaagiigidoyan.
2. Mino-doodaw gakina awiia.
3. Ganawendan gininiin, gizidan, gidoon.
4. Doodan nitam wiindamaagooyan.
5. Doodan epiichi-gashkitooyan.

Mii go booch da-mikwendamowaad onow inaakoniganan da-minosemagak omaa endazhigikinoo'amaagoziwaad Ani-gikendaasowaad ingiw abinoojiinyag. Ani-mikwendamowaad wiiji'idiwaad nawaj da-onizhishing ani-nandagikendaasowaad. Giishpin dash mikwendanzig awiia bezhig onow inaakoniganan owii-mikwedami'igoon ogikinoo'amaagekweman gemaa owiiji'gikinoo'amaaganan. Ayaapi-go zanagad gikinoo'amaagoowaad egaashiinyijg naa biinish go gaye weshki-maajitaajig.

Ishke dash gaye nimirwendaan aabajitooyaan mazinaakizonan da-bagikendamowaad iw endazhindamaan gikinooamaageyaan. Gaawiin apane memwech da-anwebid da-nanaamadabi'ind wiineta naanaagadawendang ezhiwebizid a'aw abinoojiinh mikwendanzig ow bezhig gemaa bizindanzig. Eta-go gidaa-mikwendami'aa weweni miinawaa gidaa-waawiindamawaa ge-izichigepan. Giishpin dash wiindamawad a'aw abinoojiinh izhi-gashkitoosig da-bimiwidood inaakoniganan. mii iw keyaa ge-inenindizod. Nawaj da- minwendam nanda-gikendaasod debweyenindizod gashkitood.

### Circle of Health Outreach

Wednesday, March 4  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Aazhoomog Clinic

Wednesday, March 11  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
East Lake Clinic

Wednesday, March 18  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
Urban Office

Wednesday, March 25  
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.  
DII-A Isle Community Center

### Interested in submitting to the *Inaajimowin*?

Send your submissions and birthday announcements to Andy McPartland at [andy@redcircleagency.com](mailto:andy@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-248-2051.

The April issue deadline is March 15.



DISTRICT 1

# Early Education Awarded with 4-Star Parent Aware Rating

**Tammy Wickstrom** Director of Early Education

In January, the Mille Lacs Band Early Education department was awarded a 4-Star Parent Aware rating from Child Care Aware of Minnesota. This is the highest possible rating by Parent Aware, a rating tool designed to improve, support and celebrate the strengths of childcare and early learning programs.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services leads Parent Aware in coordination with the Minnesota Office of Early Learning. Child Care Aware of Minnesota is working in local communities to share the Ratings with parents and prepare childcare and early education programs.

This is the second time the program has received the highest rating. Participating programs earn from one star to four stars by demonstrating competencies in the areas of health and well-being, child assessment and family relationships. All Star-rated programs go above and beyond licensing requirements to support school readiness. By voluntarily becoming rated, a program shows it cares enough about early learning to use best practices and proven approaches.

Participating programs have:

- Volunteered for extra in-depth training.
- Use a scientifically based curriculum which is validated by Parent Aware.
- Shown evidence of strong, caring relationships with each child.
- Adopted the latest approaches to getting children's learning on track.
- Committed to daily activities that help children learn and grow.



At a recent Family Activity Night, Wewinabi brought in a Starlab portable planetarium, which projects constellations onto a dome. Betty Jane Schaaf, pictured, explained the Ojibwe legends about the stars.

- Placed high importance on children's health and safety.
- Been trained in current observation techniques and that training is used to aid staff in assessing children's needs.
- Demonstrated it is respectful of each child's unique background and encourages children to celebrate their individuality. Activities that teach about similarities and differences in realistic, positive ways help children learn to value and respect themselves and others.
- Programs communicate with parent on a routine basis and are partners in the child's education.

If you would like more information concerning Mille Lacs Early Education's Parent Aware four star rating, please contact Tammy Wickstrom or Mary Fletcher at Wewinabi Early Education Center: 320-532-7590. More information concerning Parent Aware and quality childcare can be found at [parentawareratings.org](http://parentawareratings.org).

## Enrolled in 2014 Commercial Coverage Through MNsure? Form 1095-A Arriving in Mailboxes Soon

Now is the time when Minnesotans begin receiving important documents needed to file their tax returns. This year, Minnesotans who enrolled in a commercial health plan through MNsure in 2014 will get a new one, Form 1095-A.

"The Form 1095-A is a lot like the W-2 you get from your employer or any other tax-related document," said MNsure CEO Scott Leitz. "The 1095-A is needed to properly file your federal tax return if an advanced premium tax credit was applied to your coverage or you wish to claim a tax credit for 2014. You need the information on this form to file your federal income tax return."

Form 1095-A provides information about qualified health plan coverage received through MNsure and advanced premium tax credit information. The form is used to verify the advanced premium tax credit amount you received is accurate. Minnesotans who earned more or less than the amount entered when filling out their MNsure application

will have their tax credit amount reconciled when filing their federal return.

"If you enrolled in a commercial health insurance plan through MNsure at any point during 2014, you should watch your mail," said Leitz.

MNsure is sending postcards to all households that enrolled in a QHP in 2014, telling them the form is on the way and that they will need this information to file their federal taxes. Useful information is also available on [MNsure.org](http://MNsure.org) by searching the keyword "1095-A". Minnesotans can should have received the Form 1095-A in early February.

Minnesotans eligible for Medical Assistance or Minnesota-Care can enroll for 2015 coverage year round. As of May 2014, 95 percent of Minnesotans have health coverage — the highest percentage in state history.



# Pine Grove Proposed as NASS Satellite

Toya Stewart Downey Staff Writer Bob Pearl Photographer



Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin

If all goes according to plan come next fall the Band's Pine Grove Leadership Academy will open its doors again and become a satellite of the Nay Ah Shing School system.

First established in 2007 as a Band-operated charter school, Pine Grove served about 25 students in the Lake Lena community and provided quality educational opportunities that were grounded in the Anishinaabe culture.

Though it was a small student body at the kindergarten through 8th grade campus, the school was a welcome alternative for families who were looking for an educational setting that was close to their homes on the eastern edge of the reservation.

The school had to change its course in mid-2012 when Pine Grove's authorizing sponsor was unable to continue with the partnership due to budget cuts, which meant that Pine Grove

was no longer able to serve as a charter school. According to state law charter schools must have an authorizing sponsor in order to operate.

Currently, the Pine Grove campus, serves as a setting for some students who are homeschooled. If the proposal to make the school a satellite of Nay Ah Shing is successful then the enrollment is likely to increase substantially and will save some families from making the 77-mile trek to Nay Ah Shing campus in Onamia. The Bureau of Indian Education helps fund the Band-operated school.

Band leaders say in order to make the effort successful, "we have to make sure this is done well." They have also said that this could serve as a pilot project that could go nationwide and could benefit other tribal schools.

## Niigaan Program Hosts 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament

Shawn Willis Chiminising Niigaan Coordinator



The winning boys' squad was Team Butterflies from Aazhoomog.

On January 24, the Niigaan Program hosted a 3-on-3 basketball tournament at the District III (Aazhoomog) Community Center. District III Niigaan Coordinator Robert Livingston Jr. served as the host for the event, which featured girls and boys aged 12 – 15. Players from all districts came together to prove their basketball skills. The tournament featured eight teams, comprised of roughly thirty players total.

Parents and friends came from near and far to watch the event. "It was really fun," said Karen McQuoid, a parent attending the games. "I loved the sense of community today. Instead of an intense win or lose mentality, there was a spirit of 'do your best and have fun.'" Percy Benjamin, Commissioner of Community Development, was also there to cheer on the teams.

The winning boys' squad was Team Butterflies from Aazhoomog, consisting of Reuben Gibbs-Staples, Dillon Kingbird, Erasmo Shabaish, and Josh Mitchell. Team Warriors, champions in the girls' division, were Hanna Benjamin, Gabby Jellum, Lilly Orazem, and Mary Schmitz.

"The whole atmosphere was friendly and inviting for the kids to do what they love to do — play basketball!" Darcie Big Bear said. "Great event!"

## 1st Annual WEWIN Conference

Please join us for the first conference of the Mille Lacs Band chapter of WEWIN: Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations. This event will focus on raising awareness about the opiates issue in our community.

– Friday, March 13 – Saturday, March 14

– Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center

Friday's agenda includes dinner, bingo, and beauty services. On Saturday, we'll have several breakout sessions on healthy living practices, including Mothers of Tradition, Doctors from the clinics, and Elder and youth speakers. Saturday's keynote speaker will be Cecelia Fire Thunder.

Grand Prize drawing: full Jingle Dress outfit! Must be present to win.

### Registration

Contact Shelly Diaz to save your space for the conference (email [Shelly.Diaz@millelacsband.com](mailto:Shelly.Diaz@millelacsband.com) or call 320-292-4234).



Early registration by March 10th will qualify you for an extra raffle ticket when you check in.

Check-in / same day registration:

– Friday, March 13: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m.

– Saturday, March 14: 7:30 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Limited seating, so please register early to reserve your spot.

Visit [millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com) for more information and conference agenda.

### Are you an Elder or do you know an Elder who has a story to tell?

The *Ojibwe Inaajimowin* is looking for Elder stories for upcoming issues.

Send your name, contact information, and a brief description of the Elder you would like to feature to Andy McPartland at [andy@redcircleagency.com](mailto:andy@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-248-2051.

## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Job Fairs

### TERO Office

Mark your calendar for two upcoming job fairs, where job seekers can meet employers to talk about hiring opportunities and speak with representatives from educational institutions about training options.

If you're a job seeker, plan to come to the Lake Mille Lacs Area Job Fair 2015 on Tuesday, April 7 from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Holy Cross Center, 104 Crosier Drive, Onamia. If you wish to be an exhibitor, go to [regonline.com/millelacs15](http://regonline.com/millelacs15) by Friday, March 20.

If you are a job seeker who can't attend the job fair on April 7, plan to participate in the East Central Minnesota Job Fair on Tuesday, April 21. The event will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the AFRC — Cambridge Community Center, 505 Spirit River Drive S., Cambridge, Minn. If you wish to be an exhibitor, complete the online registration at [regonline.com/eastcentral15](http://regonline.com/eastcentral15) by Friday, April 3.

More information is available about the East Central Job Fair at [mn.gov/deed/events/ECMJF](http://mn.gov/deed/events/ECMJF) and about the Lake Mille Lacs Area Job Fair at [mn.gov/deed/events/LMLA2015](http://mn.gov/deed/events/LMLA2015) or contact Debbie Rushmeyer at the WorkForce Center in St. Cloud, 320-308-2929.

### Mille Lacs Band Treaty Rights Celebration

Friday, March 20  
Grand Casino Mille Lacs  
Events & Convention Center

Invocation at noon  
Honor song by drum group Timber Trails  
Lunch served at 12:30 p.m.

There will be vendor booths, arts & crafts booths, door prizes, and games for adults and kids.

Plus, enter for a chance to win a ricing package that includes rice knockers and a canoe or a spring harvest package that includes a net, buoys, and a canoe. *Must be present to win.*

### Higher Education Outreach

Wednesday, March 11  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Chiminising Community Center

Wednesday, March 18  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Chiminising Community Center



## Weweni A'aw Anishinaabe Daa-Asemaake Tips On How To Properly Offer Your Tobacco

Lee Staples Gaa-Anishinaabemod Obizaan

Chato Gonzalez Gaa-Anishinaabewibii'ang Ombishkebines

**Mii dash omaa noongom ani-biindaakoojiged a'aw Anishinaabe waa-ni-dazhindamaan. Ishke a'aw Anishinaabe ishkwyaang gaa-ayaad, gaawiin ogii-ni-aabaji'aasiin eta-go bizhishig inow asemaan ezhi-gikenimang noongom gii-ni-biindaakoojiged. Mii inow apaakoziganan gaa-aabaji'aajin. Mii dash imaa gaa-ondinaad inow mishkwaabiimizhiin. Mii inow gaa-kaakaaska'aajin inow mitigoonsan, mii dash imaa gii-paasang imaa gaa-onjikaamagadinig. Mii dash inow gaa-aabaji'aajin gii-ni-biindaakoojiged.**

What I want to talk about this time is when *Anishinaabe* puts their tobacco down as an offering. The *Anishinaabe* way back did not only use tobacco, as we know it today in their offerings. They used a mixture known as *apaakozigan*. This came from the red willow sapling. They scraped the inner bark of the red willow and these scrapings were dried. It was these dried scrapings that were used in their offerings.

**Ishke nigezikwendaan owapii gii-naazikaageyaan a'aw akiwenziiyiban gii-niimi'idiiked ani-biindigeyaan niimi'idiwigamigong, mii i'iw gaa-piijimaandamaan gii-sagaswaadamawaad inow apaakoziganan imaa gimishoomisinaan odooowaaganan. Mii dash gaawiin aapiji a'aw Anishinaabe noongom odaabaji'aasiin inow apaakoziganan ani-biindaakoojiged. Maagizhaa gaye waa-wenipanizigwen ani-adaawed inow asemaan eni-aabaji'aajin dash noongom.**

I remember going to the ceremonial dances that the old man who raised me put on and I recall the smell of the *apaakoziganan* that was smoked out of the ceremonial drum pipe. Nowadays *Anishinaabe* very seldom uses *apaakoziganan* in their offerings. The *Anishinaabe* probably just wants to make it easier for themselves by using the tobacco that can be purchased from the market.

**Da-minochige a'aw Anishinaabe da-bi-azhegiwewidood i'iw akeyaa gaa-izhichiged gidinawemaaganinaan ishkwyaang gaa-ayaad apane inow apaakoziganan gii-aabaji'aad biindaakoojiged. Gaawiin igo debinaak gidaa-doodawaasiwaanaanig ingiw Manidoog.**

It would be great for the *Anishinaabe* to bring back the way that our relatives from the past had always done by using *apaakoziganan* in their offering at all times. We should not treat the *Manidoog* in a half-heartedly fashion.

**Akawe imaa bagwaj gidaa-izhaamin da-naadiyang inow mishkwaabiimizhiin da-gaakaaska'amang, mii dash imaa ge-ondinamang da-ni-dagonamang imaa asemaang weweni da-ni-biindaakoonindwaa ingiw Manidoog. Gaawiin i'iw akeyaa ge-ni-izhi-wenipaniziyang gidaa-nanda-waabandanzimin wenjida imaa ani-manidookeyang anishinaabewiyang.**

We should first go out into the woods to gather the red willow saplings, scrape them and use the scrapings to mix in with the tobacco to properly give our offering to the *Manidoog*. We should not look for the easy way to do things especially when it comes to our ceremonies as *Anishinaabe*.

**Eshkwaa igo ani-dazhindamaan aaningodinong debinaak wii-ni-doodawaad inow Manidoon aanind a'aw Anishinaabe mii gaye waa-ni-dazhindamaan. Ishke moozhag niwaabamaa a'aw Anishinaabe azhigwa wii-asaad inow odasemaan, mii imaa ani-adaawamaad awiya inow asemaan waa-asaajin. Ambe sanoo gego i'iw akeyaa izhichigekegon.**

While I am on the subject of treating the *Manidoog* in a half-hearted fashion I also want to mention something else that came to mind. I often see *Anishinaabe* when it is time to put tobacco, they will borrow from someone the tobacco that they are going to put. Please do not do that.

**Gaawiin ingiw Manidoog gimino-doodawaasiwaawaag izhichigeyeg i'iw akeyaa. Giizhaa gidaa-naanaawaa a'aw Asemaa waa-aabaji'eg. Gaawiin zanagasinoon da-izhichiged i'iw a'aw Anishinaabe. Dibishkoo-go a'aw Anishinaabe ani-adaawanged inow asemaan waa-asaad, mii imaa waabanda'iwed gaawiin a'aw odapiitendanzin i'iw ani-biindaakoojiged a'aw Anishinaabe.**

You are not treating the *Manidoog* in a respectful manner by doing that. You should go and get your tobacco ahead of time that you are going to use in your offering. It is not difficult for *Anishinaabe* to do that. When *Anishinaabe* goes and borrows the tobacco he is going to use, it is as if he is showing how little appreciation he has for the offerings made by the *Anishinaabe*.

**Booch igo da-ni-waabamigod inow Manidoon ezhichiged. Mii i'iw enendamaan niin, debinaak wii-toodawaad inow Manidoon, mii-go ge-wiinawaa aazhita debinaak da-ni-doodaagod.**

I am sure the *Manidoog* see what the *Anishinaabe* is doing. I believe that when *Anishinaabe* treats the *Manidoog* with such little consideration, they too will in turn treat their *Anishinaabe* in the same fashion.

**Booch apane a'aw Anishinaabe oada-bimiwinaan inow odasemaan; mii a'aw epenimoyang. Ishke gegoo anizhiwebizid maagizhaa gaye inow odinawemaaganan, mii-go gaabige imaa da-asemaakepan bimiwinaad inow odasemaan. Ishke gaye nichiiwak megwaa bimi-ayaawaad ingiw Binesiwag, mii-go gaabige imaa da-biindaakoonaapan inow Binesiwagan.**

The *Anishinaabe* should always travel with his tobacco; our tobacco is what we rely on as a people to help us. See, if something happens to that person or his relatives he would be able to put his tobacco immediately if he always carried it with him. Also, if the Thunder-beings should bring on a storm, that *Anishinaabe* would be able to put his tobacco right away.

**Ishke gaye niwii-ni-dazhindaan, wii-ayaawad awiya da-ganoodamook wii-asemaakeyan, Continued on page 13**

**gidaa-naazikawaa giizhaa a'aw akiwenzii maagizhaa gaye mindimooyenh weweni inow asemaan da-o-ininamawad. Maagizhaa gaye wii-wiiyawen'enkawad a'aw giniijaanisens, mii i'iw iwidi akawe asemaan da-ininamawad giizhaa waa-kanoodamook. Gego imaa mazinaabikiwebiniganing gidaa-maajibii'amawaasiin maagizhaa gaye da-ganoonad imaa giigidowining da-nanaandomad a'aw gechi-aya'aawid da-bi-naadamook.**

I also want to mention, if you are looking for a speaker to do a ceremony for you, you should approach that old man or old lady ahead of time and give him or her tobacco. For example if you want to give namesakes to your child, what you should do first is take your tobacco to that Elder who will speak for you. Do not send a text message on the computer or place a call over the phone to the Elder requesting their assistance.

**Ishke gida-mino-doodawaa weweni-go da-ni-izhiwidamawad inow asemaan. Ishke dash i'iwapii ani-waabamad, mii imaa weweni da-ni-waawiindamook ge-izhichigeyan giizhaa da-ozhiitaayan wii-wiiyawen'enkawad a'aw giniijaanis. Wiin gaye oda-inaakonaan apii ge-okwii'iding da-giizhiikigaadeg waa-izhichigeng. Gaawiin giin gidaa-wiindanziin apii ge-wiiyawen'enkaageng.**

You are being respectful by properly bringing your tobacco to the Elder. When you are there with that Elder, that is when he or she will explain to you what you need to do to prepare for the namesake ceremony for your child. He or she will also be the one who decides the date, time, and place of the ceremony. You should not go ahead and set all that up on your own.

**Aaniin igo akeyaa a'aw Anishinaabe ezhi-misawendang da-naadamawind wii-ni-biindaakoojiged. Weweni oadao-naazikawaan da-o-asemaakawaad inow waa-anoonaajin da-ganoodamaagod. Mii i'iw apane a'aw Anishinaabe ishkweyaang gaa-izhichiged imaa waabanda'iwed ezhi-apiitendang gaa-izhi-miinigoowiziyang anishinaabewiyang. Gii-wawiingezi a'aw Anishinaabe ishkweyaang gaa-ayaad.**

This also pertains to whatever kind of ceremony that *Anishinaabe* wants done. You should respectfully take the tobacco over to the one that you want to talk for you. This is what our ancestors had always done showing their appreciation for what we have been given as *Anishinaabe*. The *Anishinaabe* of the past were real thorough in their approach to our ceremonies.

**Niwaabandaan debinaak wii-ni-izhichiged a'aw Anishinaabe noongom wenji-ozhibii'amaan o'ow. Ishke aanind giizhaa ezhi-inaakonigewaad owapii waa-tanakamigiziwaad wii-asemaakewaad, gaawiin akawe nimbi-wiindamaagosiig apii waa-okwii'idiwaad. Ishke gaye aningodinong ani-dagoshinaan waa-tanakamigiziwaad, niwaabandaan gaawiin weweni gii-ozhiitaasiwag. Maagizhaa gaye gaawiin gii-poodawesiiwag agwajing, gemaa gaye gaawiin ojiibaakwaaniwaan imaa atemagasini, maagizhaa gaye wawaaj igo inow asemaan odayaawaasiwaawaan.**

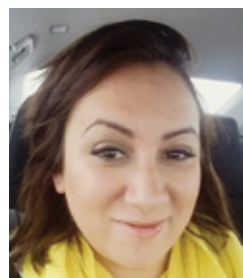
Nowadays I see *Anishinaabe* being careless, which is the reason I am writing this. Some will set the date, time, and place for the ceremony they want to do without contacting me beforehand. There are times that I will arrive at the place of the ceremony and see that they are not prepared. Maybe the fire has not been made outside, or possibly they have not cooked the food that will be used in the ceremony, or they may not even have tobacco on hand that they are going to use.

**Gaawiin i'iw daa-izhiwebasinoon bi-naazikawiwaad giizhaa dabwaa-danakamigiziwaad. Mii iko imaa weweni ani-waawiindamawagwaa ge-izhichigewaad da-ozhiitaawaad.**

This would not happen if they had brought me tobacco ahead of time before the ceremony itself. At the time they bring me tobacco is when I tell them what needs to be done to prepare ahead of time.



## Band Member Hired as Licensing Manager



Wendy Merrill

Wendy Merrill was recently hired as Mille Lacs Licensing Manager for the Gaming Regulatory Authority.

"Mille Lacs Licensing Department is looking for ways to help Band Members and Non-Band Members as much as we are able," Wendy said. "In the past, there were few options

for people with imperfect histories and applicants may have been declined. We run background checks on future associates of Grand Casino Mille Lacs and we make the determination of the different class licenses, depending on their background history. If they qualify, we will license them to work at the casino."

Before moving into her current position in September, Wendy worked for Head Start as a Family Service Worker for two years. "I am still actively involved in Head Start," Wendy said. "I am currently going on my third year being on the Parent Policy Council. I also have history with the Gaming Authority; I worked as a Surveillance Administrator/Purchasing Assistant for four years."

Last May, Wendy received her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Behavior with a minor in Psychology from the College of St. Scholastica. She received her Associates degree from Central Lakes College in 2012.

"I would eventually like to go for my Master's degree as soon as I find the time," she said. "I am very proud of my school accomplishments; I'm the first one out of my immediate family to finish college."

Wendy, a Mille Lacs Band Member, was born in Minneapolis but raised in District I. Her mother is Melanie Sam and her stepdad is Jeffrey Sam. She now resides in Isle with her husband Carlos Merrill and her three children. Wendy said, "With my husband's help and support, we are also raising two of our nieces and nephew."

"I'm here to look for ways to work with future applicants or find solutions based on their previous criminal history if necessary. My contact information is located on the Mille Lacs Band website, under Gaming Regulatory Authority."

## Cultural Awareness is Prevention

Elder Abuse Awareness Conference



Tuesday, March 17

Grand Casino Mille Lacs  
Convention Center  
777 Grand Avenue  
Onamia, MN

**THIS IS A MILLE LACS BAND ELDER EVENT**

**Pre-registration is encouraged**

Registration forms are available at:

- All MLB Districts Community Centers
- Assisted Living Units & Urban Office

Contact Doreen Mitchell at 320-532-7532 or Karen Boyd at 320-532-7802.

All registrations received after March 6, 2015 will be considered on-site registration.

On-site registration will open March 16, 2015 at Grand Casino Mille Lacs Convention Center foyer from at 7:30 p.m. –9:30 p.m.

*Presented by the Chief's Office with Health & Human Services*

## Ain Dah Yung Center's 17th Annual Cherish the Children Traditional Pow Wow

Saturday, March 14 – Sunday, March 15

Central High School (275 Lexington Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104)

**Doors Open:** 11 a.m. and **Registration:** 11 a.m.

**Grand Entries:**

Saturday: 1 p.m. & 7 p.m., Feast: 5 p.m., and Sunday: 1 p.m.

First 10 registered drums with a minimum of 5 singers will receive an honorarium. There will be 50/50 Drawings and fabulous door prizes!

Join our "Family in Need" Drive in Honor of Roy Roberts — donate a household/family item.

Contests and specials include: Madison Frantum outgoing Princess Girl's/Women's Traditional (6 years and up), Men's Traditional 18+ Special, Trina Fasthorse Head Woman, 2 Man Hand Drum Contest, and Junior Hand Drum Contest.

4th Annual Ain Dah Yung Center Ambassador Contest: contact [holly.henning@adycenter.org](mailto:holly.henning@adycenter.org)

\$5 Entry fee for ages 7+. Free entry for Elders and Veterans. Free entry per person with our Roy Roberts "Family in Need" Drive.

## TRIBAL NOTEBOARD

### Happy March Birthday to Mille Lacs Band Elders!

Ramona Anne Applegate  
Debra Rose Barge  
Nancy Mae Bearheart  
Cynthia Eileen Beaulieu  
Marie Ann Bengtson  
Larry Benjamin  
Laurie Marie Benjamin  
Randy Elmer Benjamin  
Robert Patrick Benjamin  
Patricia Lorayne Christofferson  
Curtis Anthony Cody  
Francis Charles Colton  
Dean Russell Davis  
Laureen Gay Davis  
James Joseph Dorr  
Robert Allen Dorr  
Bonnie Elaine Dumler  
Robina Lou Eagle  
Mary Flores  
Terry Duane Frye  
Cheryl Darlene Garbow  
Virginia Ann Goodman  
Donald Anson Graves  
Marie Jane Gudim  
Kathleen June Hill  
Leslie Roger Karsjens  
Sandra Arlene Kegg  
Jeffrey Jay Keller  
Barbara Jane LaBlanc  
Lorelei Lee LaFave  
Mert Elaine Liebgott  
Anita Ann Misquadace  
Wanda Kay Misquadace  
Pauline Moose  
Wanda Roxane Navarro  
Lester Lee Nelson  
Victoria Marie Nichols  
Marie Esther Paschke  
Marlene Ruth Poukka  
George Wilbur Premo

Douglas Sam  
Fred L. Sam  
Kathryn Mary Sam  
Francis Dean Schaaf  
Susanna Lee Schaaf  
Thomas William Schleeve  
Roy Alden Shabaiash  
Russell Shabaiash  
Edward Skinaway Jr.  
Merle Lee Skinaway Jr.  
David Smith Jr.  
Terrance Lee Smith  
Gloria Ann Starkey  
Sami Thomas  
Robert Tibbetts Jr.  
Carol Ann Towle  
Marlene Wakanabo  
Bernard Leroy Weyaus  
Barbara Marie White

### Happy March Birthdays:

Happy birthday **Howard** on 3/1 from Cass and Travis. • Happy 6<sup>th</sup> birthday **Jayden and Jordan Sayers** on 3/3 from auntie Barb and cousin Bunny. • Happy 6<sup>th</sup> birthday to the **Sayers Twindians, Jayden and Jordan** on 3/3 from D2A with love from Grandma Sami, Dad, Auntie Chilah and all your friends/family. • Happy birthday **Carrie Moose** on 3/4 with love from Howard, Renae, Zachary, Jerry, Kira, Clarista, Bentley, and family. • Happy birthday **George Premo** on 3/7 from Cousin Deb and family. • Happy 6<sup>th</sup> birthday **Rileh Shomin** on 3/8 from Dad. Love you from all of us on Henry Davis. • Happy 14<sup>th</sup> birthday **Donny** on 3/10 with love from Auntie

Mare and your cousins Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, and Daymon. • Happy birthday in memory of **Dylan Benjamin** on 3/12. Rest in peace from sister Gloria and the Shabaiash family. • Happy birthday **Sammy** on 3/12 from sister Barb and nephew Bunny. • Happy 25<sup>th</sup> birthday **Renae Marie** on 3/12 with love from Mom, Pops, Zachary, Jerry, Kira, Clarista, Bentley, and family. • Happy birthday **Nae Nae** on 3/12 love the Harrington family. • Happy birthday **Carla** on 3/12 from Cass, Crystal, Leighnah, Kayla, and Caryn. • Happy birthday **Terry Smith** on 3/12, love Tam, Brandon, Chantel, Ahrianna, Jazmin, Brandi, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico. • Happy birthday **Keith** on 3/13 from Cass and Travis. • Happy birthday **Kelly Jo Sam** on 3/14 from cousin Barb and cousin Bunny. • Happy birthday **Ray** on 3/14 with love from Toni, Lucy, and David. • Happy birthday **Delbert Sr.** on 3/17 from Gloria and Dee Jay. • Happy birthday **Jayla** on 3/18, love Dad, Lileah, Papa Brad, Granny Kim, Papa Kyle, Val, Pie, Kevin, Brad, Melissa, Brae, Payton, Eric, Wesley, Bryn, Bianca, Randi, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Rachel, and Waylon. • Happy birthday **Bruce** on 3/19, love Jayla, Lileah, Dad, Mom, Kyle, Val, Pie, Kev, Brad, Melissa, Brae, Payton, Eric, Wesley, Bryn, Bianca, Randi, Jay, Taylor, Adam, Rachel, and Waylon. •

Happy birthday **John Regguinti** on 3/22 from your wife and family. • Happy birthday **Gushy** on 3/22, love Tam, Brandon, Chantel, Ahrianna, Jazmin, Brandi, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico. • Happy birthday **Tawnya Stewart** on 3/24! Love you lots! From Toya, Dallas, Dawne, Brittany, Jessica, and Blake. • Happy birthday **Owen** on 3/27 from Barbara Jo and Bunny. • Happy birthday **Mom** on 3/28 from your loves Selena, Dante, Maysun, Shawsha, Soul, and your Lovebug Daymon. • Happy birthday **Marissa Robertson** on 3/28 from Mary and the kids. • Happy birthday **Roy Shabaiash Sr.** on 3/29. We love you, Dad! From Gloria, Roy Jr., Delphine, John, Marco, and Daphne. • Happy birthday **Desi Smith** on 3/29, love Auntie Tam, Brandon, Chantel, Ahrianna, Jazmin, Brandi, Elias, TANK, Alizaya, and Rico. • Even though its going on 7 months since you left, it still feels like yesterday. If only we could have just one more chance to see you, hear your voice, or even just to hug you and say we love you would make the pain in our hearts a little less hurtful. You will forever be our big sister, a wife, mother, grandma, auntie and so much more. We love and miss you, and we want to say Happy Birthday **Beverly Garbow** 3/30! Roger, Juni, Jillian, Roy, and Lillian. Big John. Gushy — June & Family. Ron — Gladys & Family. Terry

— Lorna & Family. Vicki — Don & Family. Deb — Dave & Family. Tammy & Family. Darryl & Family. Rodney & Family. Lynda & Family. Gloria & Family. Marvin & Andy. • Happy birthday **Sharon Sam (Sissy Poo)** on 3/31 from auntie Barb and cousin Bunny.

### Happy Belated Birthdays:

Happy belated 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday **baby J (Jasyn Morrison)** on 2/11, love Mom & Dad and the Boyds: Gram Nae, Grampa Jer and Uncle Damz! • Happy belated birthday **Jazmine Regguinti** on 2/15 from Grandma and Grandpa.

### Other Announcements:

Happy anniversary on March 7 to **Nancy and Jeff** from Deb and family.

### Submit Birthday Announcements

Send name, birthday and a brief message that is **20 WORDS OR LESS** to Andy McPartland at [andy@redcircleagency.com](mailto:andy@redcircleagency.com) or call 612-248-2051. *The deadline for the April issue is March 15.*

## Mille Lacs Indian Museum March Events

### Kids' Crafts: Story Book Time and Cornhusk Dolls

**Saturday, March 7 from noon – 3 p.m.**

**Fee:** \$6 per kit (museum admission not included)

Enjoy stories and light snacks from noon to 1 p.m., then from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. children can learn how to make a cornhusk doll to take home. Cornhusk dolls were traditionally made during the fall out of the outer covering of an ear of corn. Materials and an instructional handout are included. Please allow an hour to make the craft. This project is recommended for children ages 10 and up.

### Maple Sap, Sugar, and Syrup Demonstration

**Saturday, March 21 from noon – 3 p.m.**

**Fee:** \$8 adults, \$7 seniors and college students, \$6 children ages 6–17; free for children age 5 and under and MNHS members

**Reservations:** recommended, call 320-532-3632

Join museum staff for a demonstration about traditional and contemporary methods for harvest-

ing and processing maple sap. Guests will observe the process of gathering maple sap and boiling it into syrup and sugar. Samples of maple sugar will be available. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. In the event of bad weather, this event will be rescheduled to March 28.

### Sweetgrass Basket Workshop

**Saturday, March 28 from noon – 4 p.m. and Sunday, March 29 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

**Fee:** \$60/\$55 for MNHS members; additional supply fee of \$15 applies

**Reservations:** required three days prior to workshop, call 320-532-3632

Learn the art of making a coil sweetgrass basket in this two-day workshop. Sweetgrass is a fragrant sacred herb used in ceremonies and artwork by the Ojibwe. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided on both days. A minimum of 5 participants is required. Children under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required 3 days prior to workshop. Discount hotel rooms are available at Grand Casino Mille Lacs on Saturday night for all workshop participants.

# MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Comm. Colsrud Visit</b> 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Urban Area Office</p> <p><b>Comm. Moose Visit</b> 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p>	5	6	7
8	9	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Alzheimer's Community Meeting</b> 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. ROC in Onamia See page 16</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Comm. Colsrud Visit</b> 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Urban Area Office</p> <p><b>Comm. Moose Visit</b> 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p><b>District I Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. District I Community Center</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>APB Meeting</b> 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p>	13	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Cherish the Children Powwow</b> 11 a.m. Central High School See page 13</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Cherish the Children Powwow</b> 11 a.m. Central High School See page 13</p>	16	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Elder Abuse Awareness Convention</b> Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events &amp; Convention Center See page 13</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Comm. Colsrud Visit</b> 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Urban Area Office</p> <p><b>Comm. Moose Visit</b> 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p> <p><b>District III Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Grand Casino Hinckley</p> <p><b>Chiminising Bingo</b> 6 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	19	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Band Office Closed</b> Starting at noon</p> <p><b>Treaty Day Celebration</b> 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Grand Casino Mille Lacs Events &amp; Convention Center</p>	21
22	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>District II Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p>	24	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Comm. Colsrud Visit</b> 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Urban Area Office</p> <p><b>Comm. Moose Visit</b> 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Aazhoomog Community Center</p> <p><b>District II-A Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>APB Meeting</b> 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. DI Media Room</p> <p><b>District II Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. East Lake Community Center</p> <p><b>District II-A Sobriety Feast</b> 5:30 p.m. Chiminising Community Center</p> <p><b>Urban Area Community Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. All Nations Indian Church</p>	27	28
29	30	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>MAPP Meeting</b> 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. ROC in Onamia See page 5</p>			<p><b>Want your event here?</b> Email <a href="mailto:andy@redcircleagency.com">andy@redcircleagency.com</a> or call 612-248-2051.</p>	

## Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Diabetes Education Merits ADA Recognition

### MLB Diabetes Program

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Diabetes Self-Management Education Program has been awarded continued recognition from the American Diabetes Association (ADA), in addition to NEW Recognition to the Aazhoomog and East Lake Clinic. The program was originally recognized in October of 2004. This program offers high-quality education services to the community members it serves.

The ADA Education Recognition effort, begun in the fall of 1986, is a voluntary process which assures that approved education programs have met the National Standards for Diabetes Self-Management Education Programs. Programs that achieve Recognition status have a staff of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide state-of-the-art information about diabetes management for participants.

Self-management education is an essential component of diabetes treatment. One significance of compliance with the National Standards is the greater consistency in the quality and quantity of education offered to people with diabetes. The participant in an ADA-recognized program will be taught, as needed, self-care skills that will promote better management of his or her diabetes treatment plan. All approved education programs cover the following topics as needed: diabetes disease process; nutritional management; physical activity; medications; monitoring; preventing, detecting, and treating acute complications; preventing, detecting, and treating chronic complications through risk reduction; goal setting and problem solving; psychological adjustment; and preconception care, management during pregnancy, and gestational management.

Assuring high-quality education for patient self-care is one of the primary goals of the education recognition program. Through the support of the health care team and increased knowledge and awareness of diabetes, the patient can assume a major part of the responsibility for his/her diabetes management. Unnecessary hospital admissions and some of the acute and chronic complications of diabetes may be prevented through self-management education.

"The process gives professionals a national standard by which to measure the quality of the services they provide," commented Kelsay Grams, Diabetes Program Coordinator. "And, of course, it helps consumers to identify these quality programs."

For more information, contact the Diabetes Program at 320-532-7790.

## Alzheimer's Disease Action Team to Hold Community Meeting

**Sue Lyback** Mille Lacs Health System



The "ReMembering Matters at Mille Lacs" Action Team is holding a community meeting in conjunction with ACT on Alzheimer's® to reveal the findings of a recent community needs assessment regarding current local needs and resources for persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Nearly fifty local leaders and community members have been interviewed for this assessment. The community meeting is open to all interested persons and will be held at the ROC in Onamia on March 10 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. with program and refreshments. Respite care can be available on site for persons with dementia so their caregivers can attend.

ACT on Alzheimer's® is a volunteer driven, statewide collaboration preparing Minnesota for the impacts of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Under one of its goals, ACT on Alzheimer's is helping communities become dementia capable. A dementia capable community is informed, safe, respects individuals with dementia and their families and caregivers, and provides options that support the best quality of life.

A number of local leaders from Mille Lacs area community agencies as well as resource staff from Central Minnesota Council on Aging will be at the meeting. Everyone with an interest in better preparing the northern Mille Lacs County area for Alzheimer's is invited to attend. More information about ACT on Alzheimer's is available [ACTonALZ.org](http://ACTonALZ.org).

For more information on the local March 10 meeting and/or to make arrangements for respite care on site for loved ones with dementia so caregivers can attend, contact local action team coordinator Sue Lyback at 320-532-2742 or email [slyback@mlhealth.org](mailto:slyback@mlhealth.org).

## Child Support Enforcement Update

### Modification of orders or decrees

Child Support clients are entitled to a review of their child support case every thirty-three (33) months, or when there has been a substantial change in circumstances.

The terms of an existing support order may be modified or a new order may be made upon a showing that there has been a substantial change in circumstances from those prevailing when the existing order was entered and that one or more of the terms of the existing order are unreasonable and unfair under the new circumstances.

Any one or more of the following examples are sufficient to establish a substantial change in circumstances from those prevailing when the existing order was entered:

- Substantially increased or decreased gross income of an obligor or obligee;
- Substantially increased or decreased need of an obligor or obligee of the child or children that are subject to the proceedings;
- Receipt of assistance under the TANF program;
- A change in the cost of living for either party as measured by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- A change in the availability of appropriate health care coverage or a substantial increase or decrease in health care coverage;
- The addition of work-related or education-related child care expenses of the obligee or a substantial increase or decrease in existing work-related or education-related child care expenses;
- The emancipation of a child.

More information on modifications of your child support can be found in Subchapter 1 of Chapter 12 ("Child Support") in Title 8 of the Mille Lacs Band Statutes.

Child Support clients can contact their case manager with any questions or concerns.

Shannon Nayquonabe — District 1 Case Manager  
320-532-7453

Tammy Smith — District II, II-A, III and Urban Case Manager  
320-532-7752

The Child Support office will be closing at noon on March 20, 2015 for the Treaty Day celebration.

If you have any questions or concerns contact our office at 320-532-7755.

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BRainerd MN  
PERMIT NO. 250

**MILLE LACS BAND OF OJIBWE**  
43408 Oodena Drive  
Onamia, MN 56359  
[millelacsband.com](http://millelacsband.com)



## Heating, Water, and Maintenance Problems?

**During normal business hours:** tenants in Band rentals and Elders living within the service area should call 800-709-6445, ext. 7433, for work orders. **After business hours:** tenants with maintenance emergencies should call 866-822-8538 and press 1, 2, or 3 for their respective district.

## Free Hearing Evaluations

Evaluations take place on the second Friday of each month at Ne-la-Shing Clinic. Call 320-532-4163 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome — we will do our best to serve you. Ask us about the \$1,000 in hearing aid benefits you can receive from the Circle of Health.

Hearmore Hearing has offices in Saint Paul and Osseo. To schedule an appointment Monday through Friday, call the Saint Paul office at 651-771-4019 or the Osseo office at 763-391-7433.